

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the abstract with the following amended paragraph:

~~A The present invention is a novel method and apparatus for initiating a reverse link intergenerational handoff in a CDMA communication system that. The reverse link intergenerational handoff initialization method and apparatus of the present invention~~ measures and compares parameters between a serving base station of one generation and a target base station of another generation to determine the best possible handoff initiation time instant for performing a reverse link intergenerational hard handoff. Different embodiments ~~The present invention~~ can utilize one of several procedures ~~embodiments~~ to determine the best possible handoff initiation time instant. A pilot signal strength embodiment ~~of the present invention~~ determines a handoff initiation time instant based upon the total pilot signal strength of both a serving and target base station. An ~~The~~  $E_b/N_t$  embodiment determines a handoff initiation time instant based upon  $E_b/N_t$  (ratio of average power per bit to total received power spectral density) values of both a serving and a target base station. The method and apparatus ~~of the present invention~~ decreases the probability of degraded or dropped calls during intergenerational handoffs.